

Acting Assistant Director, ORR

4 June 1959

Chief, Geographic Research

Report of Significant Activities in the Geographic Research Area
During the Absence of the AD/RR

1. CIA/RR GR 59-9, "Estimate of Flood Loss Resulting from the Destruction of the High Aswan Dam", was well received, according to reports from the offices of the DD/I and the DCI. Upon instruction from the DD/I, copies were forwarded to the AD/CI and the DD/P.

2. In connection with the reconsideration of the ORR War Plan and the War Planning Inventory, Chief/G contacted Col. Diercks, the Commanding Officer of AMS. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate emergency plans, to establish points of contact, and to make specific arrangements for an interchange of materials, service, and support during a wartime emergency. A Memorandum for the Record dated 22 April 1959 was prepared on this subject, and a copy was furnished to DAD/RR.

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25X1A5a1 3. Arrangements were completed to utilize [redacted] for elicitation of information concerning Soviet and Satellite topographic maps. At our request, [redacted] is modifying his vacation in Europe by undertaking a week's trip to Moscow and [redacted] is extending his business tour in Europe to include a trip to Czechoslovakia to meet with Czech cartographers and mapping people. An "EYES ONLY" memorandum dated 12 May 1959 outlining these developments was prepared for the DCI and sent through A/AD/RR and the DD/I. Attached to this was a letter for the DCI's signature thanking [redacted] for his help in our behalf.

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4. The intensified program to procure Soviet and Satellite topographic maps or information concerning them has involved several developments of which you should be aware:

a. One is the attempt to provide full coverage of the mapping conference being held in the northern part of Czechoslovakia. [redacted] we have developed financial support for [redacted] European schedule for one week

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to attend the conference and to report fully on it upon his return. We are also attempting to get [redacted] assistant, [redacted], and the [redacted]

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25X1A5a1 to attend. In addition, it is conceivable that [redacted] who will be in the area, may be invited to attend the conference.

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25X1A5a1 b. In addition to the above efforts, Mr. [REDACTED] has made a quick trip to San Francisco to talk with Mr. [REDACTED], a 25X1A5a1 [REDACTED] about his further utilization in providing us with information and possibly maps. The plan of attack to 25X1A9a be used by Mr. [REDACTED] in his conversation with Mr. [REDACTED] was 25X1A5a1 developed at a meeting with Messrs. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a and myself. This activity has been fully coordinated with elements of the DD/P.

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25X1D0a 5. Mr. [REDACTED] has now been cleared for SI, and it is planned that he and Mr. [REDACTED] be "led by the hand", so to speak, by [REDACTED] 25X1A9a into the maze of utilizing [REDACTED]. It is important that they are at least aware of the potentialities of this source in the development of information leading to the possible covert collection of topographic maps.

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6. On 1 June, the subject of publication of atlases was discussed with Messrs. Amory and [REDACTED]. The purpose was to get Mr. Amory's approval to publish two atlases on an UNCLASSIFIED basis, with attribution to CIA. He agreed to this, providing the source would not be compromised. It was also agreed that the atlases would be put on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office. The details of the conversation and agreements are covered in a Memorandum for the Record dated 2 June 1959, a copy of which has been provided your office.

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25X1A5a1 7. It looks as though we will get a [REDACTED] graduate student for the summer. This results from an arrangement between the DCI and the President of the University on the occasion of a speech given by the DCI and a proposal by the president for CIA to use some of [REDACTED] best people. The graduate student will work on the Kurdish project. We have submitted a brief paragraph concerning the project, as well as a detailed outline, for utilization by Mr. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a of Personnel in describing the work to the Princeton student.

8. I signed off on a memorandum on 29 May 1959 transmitting the trial country study on Lebanon to the Department of the Army. As you may remember, this study was requested by the Special Forces School at Fort Bragg.

9. We have completed and passed on through St/PB/DC the GRA contribution to SNIE 11-7-59, "Probable Soviet Position at a Conference on Antarctica".

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10. On 19 May, just two weeks after I showed [REDACTED] his Fitness Report, I had a lengthy discussion with him concerning his future in the Geographic Area, with emphasis on the proper utilization of his capabilities. The scope of the conversation has been reported in a Memorandum for the Record of 20 May 1959, which I have in my office and will make available to you upon request. I pointed out that I felt the time had come to face up to the realization that continued efforts on [REDACTED] part were going to fall far short of the standards which have been set for Division Chief work in this Area and that he could not give dynamic leadership or provide for adequate communication within his Division. It was agreed that [REDACTED] would relinquish his position as Division Chief and take over a position as Chief of one of the branches. This move would be made to get him closer to research, that being his main interest and strongest capability. It was suggested that if [REDACTED] -- who had been out for some six weeks -- could not adequately assume his Branch Chief responsibilities upon his return to duty, [REDACTED] would take up his job as Chief of the Europe Branch. It was agreed, however, that there would be no pressure brought upon [REDACTED] to relinquish his job as Branch Chief, unless medical advice indicates the desirability of such a move.

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In a discussion on 2 June with [REDACTED] I proposed several other alternatives for his placement in the Division -- any one of which, if selected as the course of action, would require your approval prior to implementation. The alternatives are as follows:

a. The creation of an Africa Branch, removing that continent from the present Near East/Africa Branch. The remaining areal responsibility of the new Near East Branch would be augmented by a transfer of responsibility for India and Pakistan from the Far East Branch. [REDACTED] would be given responsibility for the new Africa Branch and several people would be assigned to assist him.

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b. The creation of an Urban Studies Branch to take care of the increasing amount of urban area plans and studies that are underway in the Geography Division.

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c. The naming of [REDACTED] to head up the USSR Branch. This is the least desirable of all, in view of the fact that it is one of the large branches in the division, and would only transfer the problem to a lower level unit, where lack of leadership and poor communications can be just as damaging.

The best solution for all concerned would be a research job for him outside the Geographic Area. Do you have any suggestions?

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11. You will be interested to know that the informal Southeast Asia Committee had its organizational meeting on 28 May and agreed that there was real interest in continuation of the group. Among other things, they decided to call themselves the "Southeast Asia Discussion Group", and one member indicated a desire to have the group discuss pending CIA papers prepared for OCB on Indonesia before the CIA representative discusses the matter with other agencies. I refer you to a memorandum reporting on the organizational meeting of the group dated 29 May 1959, a copy of which has been sent to your attention.

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